duct and negligence against medical professionals.

All the services which are hired for a consideration are covered under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission *in a judgement has held that contract of* personal services stems from master-servant relationship. The relation between a patient and the professional doctors does not come with in that category. Further Consumer Protection Act, only provides for additional remedy to the consumers for the redressal of their grievances against services which are hired for a consideration. It is for the consumer to decide the forum where he wants to seek redressal.

Supreme Court Judgement of Compulsory Retirement

5627. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since studied the implications of the recent Supreme Court judgement that the Government can compulsorily retire its employees without assigning any reason or following the principles of natural justice;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the follow-up action being taken thereon;

(d) whether this matter has been discussed with the Staff Associations also; and

(e) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE *MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI* MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court judgement dated 19th February, 1992 in the case of Shri Baikuntha Nath Das & another Vs. Chief District Medical Officer Baripada & another, has clarified the legal issues involved in the existing Govt. instructions on the subject. These have been noted by the Govt. and no special action on them is called for.

Poverty Alleviation Programmes

5628. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI BABU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to pay greater attention under poverty alleviation programmes to the backward, drought prone, desert, hilly and tribal areas by introducing micro planning reaching to the district and block level;

(b) if so, the details regarding its progress during the Seventh Five Year Plan period, particularly in the State of Maharashtra; and

(c) the schemes whcih are proposed to be undertaken for up lift of backward areas in the State of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statements I and II giving the financial and physical performance under various poverty alleviation programmes in rural areas of the country and in Maharashtra State